

# THE BLACK RANGE.

DEVOTED TO THE MINING INTERESTS OF THE BLACK RANGE COUNTRY.

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## MEN TO PATRONIZE.

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SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO.

## THE BLACK RANGE

And its Mining Camps. An Unprejudiced Observation.

The Black range, situated in southwestern New Mexico, extends in a northerly and southerly direction for about one hundred miles. Being the greatest range of mountains in this part of New Mexico, it is considered the main range of the Rocky mountains and the continental divide. It is found on most of the maps of this country as the Mimbres mountains. Usually when we speak of the Black range we refer to that portion situated west of and tributary to Engle, and included in the Apache, Black Range, Cuchillo Negro and Limestone districts, and surrounding the camps of Fairview, Chloride, Robinson, Grafton and St. Charles. While the Black range contains many other rich districts, they are designated by other names, as Lake Valley, Kingston, Perchas, Palomas, etc. The first discoveries made here were in the year 1878 by an old prospector named Pye, and his associates, but the Indians were so bad at this time that the parties were compelled to leave the range. The following year Pye and a Mexican returned with a view of working the prospects, but they were massacred. The real location of this section was in the fall of 1880, when a band of determined prospectors came here to stay. Since this time there has been but one raid into the range by hostile Indians, which was in January 1881. But the rumors from time to time that the Apaches are on the war-path has retarded the growth and development of this region by keeping much capital from these districts that would otherwise have been invested here. The Indian question having been settled for a year past, the district has been rapidly and steadily improving until at the present time it shows a large number of fine prospects and a few mines, many of which carry not only large bodies of ore, but of a high grade. The famous Ivanhoe mine has done more to advertise and benefit this section than any one property and paradoxical as it may seem, more to injure and retard its growth than any one thing except the hostile Indians. At the present time it is reported on reliable authority that the mine was showing as well as ever when work was discontinued. Notwithstanding this it is generally understood that an effort is being made to bear the stock and it is given out to the world at large that the mine is a failure.

The Black range is remarkable for the amount of timber, fuel and water which it contains, there being pine, juniper, spruce, live oak and cedar, while streams rising near the summit of the range and flowing eastward across the mineral belt are found every two or three miles. The mineral district or belt of this region, extends north and south for a distance of about thirty miles and is from three to fifteen miles in width. The leading feature of this belt is that it does not contain innumerable small veins extending in all directions, but has large and well-defined veins which can be easily traced for miles, and with the same general course or direction. The growth and development of this district is steady and permanent, being in the main for legitimate mining purposes, and as the properties are developed they show sufficient improvement to warrant continuous work. Several of them are being worked and the ore left on the dump at the mine, while others are shipping their ores. Machinery is being placed on the Alaska and it is being thoroughly and vigorously worked. A stamp mill is being erected at the Occidental and a large amount of ore is being mined. The Apache is being thoroughly developed and we might mention several other prominent properties which are being worked, if space would permit.

FAIRVIEW

is the first camp we reach upon entering the range. It is situated in a broad and fertile valley, and is the supply camp for the miners in the Cuchillo Negro mountains, and the place from whence the roads branch going to Chloride, Robinson, Grafton and St. Charles. There is a water jacket smelter here. They have a postoffice, a comfortable hotel, kept by Mr. J. W. Sansom, and three stores. Messrs. Blun & Bro. carry a full line of general merchandise and miners' supplies, and the same may be said of Mr. M. G. Levy and J. W. Sansom. Passing over the foot hills about two miles we are at the prosperous camp of

CHLORIDE,

beautifully situated upon a stream of clear, pure water, which is made to divide and flow down both sides of the main street and water two rows of

shade trees. No one should visit this camp without calling on Dr. G. S. Haskell, late commissioner to the Denver Exposition, and examining his cabinet of two thousand specimens from the Black range. These specimens have been carefully selected from the surface down as far as the properties have been worked, and will give a better idea of the mineral found in the range than can be obtained in any other way. At this camp we found a very complete and beautiful topographical map of the Apache and Black Range districts, which has been prepared at much expense and labor by Messrs. Trumbor & Beebe. Mr. Beebe is a surveyor and engineer, while Mr. Trumbor is the U. S. mineral surveyor of this district. Mr. Geo. A. Beebe is interested in the

STONINGTON,

which is a fine prospect, assaying from forty to fifty ounces of silver with only a ten foot shaft.

G. B. McAulay, an experienced miner, has bonded the

APACHE,

which he is developing as rapidly as possible, working two shifts of men in a shaft and tunnel. This is one of the noted properties of the district, and is one of the largest veins found in this section, being the same as the Wall Street and Wall Street No. 2, the latter of which is owned by Mr. McAulay and has yielded \$250 to the ton in silver.

Calling upon G. A. Cassil we learned that he was interested in prospects in most of the prominent districts in New Mexico, and also has secured one of the finest ranches in the territory. The writer has since become acquainted with some of Mr. Cassil's mining property and found that he has some of the best in the southwest. The

HIRAM,

owned by C. E. Ayer, is a promising prospect. It is iron capped, and with only twenty feet of development is showing fine quartz from which silver buttons are readily taken by using the blow pipe. The

MAIL LINE,

situated on Dry creek, has some very fine ore, and we were shown some specimens carrying native silver. The ore body is about two and one-half feet in a thirty foot shaft, and assays from fifty-five to one hundred ounces silver. It is owned by the Black Range Mining and Milling company, John A. Winram, superintendent. The

COLOSSAL

is one of the big properties from which ore is being shipped. It has a shaft 100 feet and a tunnel which is being driven 300 feet. It shows several ore bodies which will average \$100, although ore has been shipped which run from \$200 to \$240 by car load.

That Chloride is a good camp and that all classes of business are well represented is illustrated by the business houses there. Wm. Driscoll has a full line of drugs, chemicals, toilet articles, etc. H. Westerman & Co. carry a large stock of merchandise and general supplies. Capt. C. C. Harris has a billiard hall and one of the leading places of amusement in the camp. Capt. Harris is interested in several mining properties, among which we recall the Mexican, W. C. Campbell, and Letter B. The Campbell has a tunnel thirty feet and shows nearly six feet of lead carbonate, which have assayed forty eight ounces silver and fifty per cent. lead. J. J. Duglish & Co. have the postoffice in their store, and carry a full stock of general merchandise and miners' supplies. I. H. Gray has a livery with saddle horses and conveyances of every description. Mussey, Maharba & Co. have a branch store here and carry shelf and heavy hardware, miners' supplies, etc. The

RICHARDS

lead, owned by Dan Fitzpatrick, is situated near the famous Colossal. This prospect has a shaft twenty feet in depth with a body of ore full width of shaft, which has assayed from thirty-two to 116 ounces silver. Mr. Fitzpatrick is interested in several mining properties, and also keeps a livery stable with saddle horses, wagons, etc. Blain & Co. have a billiard hall and one of the prominent places of amusement. The

MONTE CRISTO

mining claim has a shaft seventy-five feet showing an ore body from three to four and one-half feet in width, running seventy-five to one hundred ounces silver. This property is owned by Blain and Cameron, and is considered one of the valuable ones. Eckhart & Co. run a meat market here and one at Grafton. Austin Crawford, a brother of the noted Capt. Jack Crawford, is located here and gathers in the shekels by furnishing from his livery stable saddle horses and conveyances to all parts of the territory. The

CHLORIDE HOTEL is one of the kind seldom found in mining camps. Here we had wild turkey, quail, bear, venison, etc., and what was better yet it was prepared in the finest manner. The rooms are nicely furnished and the guests are made to feel comfortable and at home by the obliging landlord, H. G. Rickert, who knows exactly what to do at the right time and place.

ROBINSON

is situated at the junction of two handsome and fertile valleys about three miles from Fairview. From this place the road extends to Grafton, while one road branches from the valley and extends to St. Charles. At Robinson we found commodious and substantial buildings, a large hotel, business houses, postoffice, etc. The

BLACK RANGE,

a large and able weekly newspaper, is published here by V. B. Beckett. It is one of the best weeklies published in New Mexico, and is full of information concerning this section of the territory. About seven miles from here we reach the camp of

GRAFTON.

Close by this camp are situated the famous Ivanhoe, the Alaska, and many prospects upon the same large vein, which have been developed only to a limited extent. Meeting C. E. Kingsbury, formerly one of the owners of the Kelly mine, we found that he was superintendent of some of the best properties in the range, the following being among the most prominent: The

Great Republic, situated on Poverty creek, shows one of the finest croppings in the range; it has been developed by a shaft seventy-five feet in depth and produces ore which has assayed very high. The Keystone is the second mine south of the Great Republic, and although it has only a twenty-two foot shaft has shown assays as high as thirty-three ounces in gold. Next south of this is situated the Great Southwest, with a ninety foot shaft, which is showing some fine ore, principally some sulphurets. The U. S. Treasury is the second claim north of the noted White Signal mine. In this claim a vein of ore thirty-six inches wide gives an assay from ore taken from the top to the bottom of the shaft, of \$58 per ton, while the fourteen-inch vein with ore selected in the same manner, assays \$83 per ton. Adjoining the U. S. Treasury is the White Eagle, which has a streak of some twenty inches of high grade ore, while about three inches of this runs twenty ounces in gold. The ore is somewhat decomposed, and a twenty-five pound sample of the fine material taken from the waste dump, as an average of the dump, gave an assay value \$43 per ton. In addition to being superintendent of these properties Mr. Kingsbury is interested with his brother in forty-five claims situated in the range. Of these we noticed the Ada mine in Wild Horse gulch. It has a shaft about fifteen feet in depth, and makes one of the finest showings of ore to be found in the north end of range, and we understand that the ore assays well. Another of the properties owned by the Kingsbury brothers of Grafton, is the True Blue, also situated in Wild Horse gulch. This property shows some high assays in both silver and gold, with only a fifteen foot shaft and should certainly be developed.

Grafton is a good camp, with a postoffice, assay office and other conveniences, also the headquarters of many of the mining men of this part of the range. Here we found a comfortable hotel called the

GRAFTON HOUSE.

It is a two story building, recently constructed by the present proprietors for the accommodation of transient guests. In addition to the ordinary bill of fare we found the table abundantly supplied with a variety of wild game. We found the business interests of Grafton represented by F. H. Winston & Co. with a stock of general merchandise and miners' supplies. A. P. Dyer & Co., with groceries, etc. N. Uptegrove, billiard hall. George Weber, wagon and blacksmith shop. While at this place we had the pleasure of meeting A. R. Bowe, Esq., superintendent of the Royal Arch mine, which has been worked by two shafts, fifty and seventy feet. It shows about two and one-half feet of ore that runs from eighty to one hundred ounces silver and from one and one-half to two ounces gold. The Lucky Lou and Lottie are also owned by the same company, and in which Mr. Bowe is a one-fourth owner. Over the hills about five miles north of Grafton is situated the camp of

ST. CHARLES.

This is a small camp, beautifully situated close by the

OCCIDENTAL

mine, to which it mainly owes its

growth. This is one of the best mines of the district and is being thoroughly worked. Last April this property was purchased by S. D. Fulton and Kean St. Charles, and since then they have sold three-fourths of the property to prominent citizens of St. Joseph, Mo. This mine is now being worked under lease by Fulton and St. Charles, and we found the latter in charge of the property. It has been opened by one fifty foot prospect shaft and a working shaft 220 feet in depth. At the present time ore is being taken from the 170 foot level, where we saw a body of gold and silver ore four feet in width which we were informed is very easily crushed and amalgamated, thirty inches of it running \$68 and the balance of it \$22 per ton. They are now erecting a stamp mill a short distance from the mine for the purpose of working this ore. The mine is well timbered and in good working order, and we expect to learn of its paying handsome profits. We are informed that this large vein is easily traced on the surface for a distance of some twelve or fifteen miles. S. D. Fulton, one of the owners of the Occidental, is also largely interested in gold and silver mining property in Old Mexico. He owns the Chili gold and silver mine Sonora, upon which he will erect a mill this winter. He also controls under bond, for sale, a group of gold mines in Sonora, and several valuable copper properties.

ENGLE,

on the A. T. & S. F. R. R. is of importance principally because it is the railroad and supply point for all of the vast section described, and of the Fra Christobal, Calaballo, San Andreas and other mountains and mining camps. It is so much nearer these points and connected by so much better roads than any other railroad town that it will be almost impossible for Engle to lose the business secured by these natural advantages. It is connected with the Black Range by the Southwestern tri-weekly stage line, which carries the mail, and for which Mr. Alex. Rogers is agent. After many a weary ride over many a weary stage route, we have at last found one which corresponds with those famous stage rides told in stories where the stock is of the sleekest and driven on the dead run, so that it is a pleasure to sit on the box and sail through the air. The

HUMBOLDT HOTEL

is one of which a much larger place might be proud. The genial landlord, Alex. Rogers, knows what good things are and furnishes them to his guests. We always look forward with pleasure to the time when we will reach the Humboldt, and regret the time when we are compelled to take our departure. Engle is surrounded by a fine grazing country and boasts of having water works. Here is located the grocery house of Armstrong Bros. & Young, who ship their goods in car load lots and sell to the merchants in the country tributary to Engle. In addition they run a tri-weekly stage line to the Black Range. The headquarters of the Humboldt mining company, one of the largest in New Mexico, is here. Among the prominent business houses we noticed was that of Alex. Rogers, who carries a large stock of general merchandise and miners' supplies. This store and postoffice we found in charge of our old friend, Frank Rowe, who was as quiet and serene as ever, notwithstanding he has been mining and made quite a stake. This time he told us of the

RACINE GIRL,

a mine owned by himself and Mr. Rogers. The property has a shaft fifty feet in depth and shows from a foot to thirty inches of ore assaying from \$60 to \$150 in gold and silver. It contains a regular well defined vein that can be traced six miles.—H. R. H., in Denver Mining Review.

A writer in the New Era says: One quarter of a century's experience has taught me that the outcropping of copper veins should present a decomposed appearance—the effect of chemical and mechanical action—and if copper is plentiful it will not be a bright yellow sulphurets at surface. If so, it is ominous for a continuous amount of copper to a very great depth. Copper ore is arrayed in various hues—black, like soot or cinders, sometimes like broken steel, variegated as peacock feathers, red as blood, green, blue, yellow, etc. It is indigenous in trap or slate, especially mica slate, where it is found in veins, or in limestone, where it is generally in deposits. A simple process, which all copper miners are familiar with, is a good test for copper equal to the blow pipe. It is to apply some of the pulverized ore, made wet, to the wick of a candle. If it contains copper a green flame will be the result.